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OCAL NEWS,—The City and Suburban News Boreau of the Universe Passa and New York Associates Pensa is at 21 to 20 Am tract. All Information and dou-nants for public use instantly disseminated to the price of the whole country.

The Sea Catch of Fur Scals.

The net result of the Paris arbitration was a magnificent defeat for the United States and a splendid haul for the lawyers and for Canada; and the payment of the piper is now in progress at Washington.

The Committee on Ways and Means has reported a bill as a substitute for the DINGLEY bill. It follows the lines of that measure with regard to the American proposal to kill off the seals, sell their skins. and close up the business unless internstional arrangements can be made to prevest the extermination of the herd the pelagic hunters; but it adds a provision for a joint commission of Americans, British, Russians, and Japanese to investigate the whole subject.

The report accompanying the bill contains these statements of deep interest to every humane beart.

"We witness a steady increase in the number of the American herd of seals killed at sea, year by year, accompanied by as steady decrease in the number which could be taken on the Pribylov Islands, until the ell max is reached in the scann just expired, when over 55,000 were killed at sea, as against 15,000 on the islands. When it is further considered that of least three fourtherf the sea ontch were Jemales, heavy with young killed, but lost, while all the is and catch were care fully relected males, some con epiton may be had of

the disastrous results of pelagic scaling.

The effect of this desturbles in Debring Sea was
the finding of 12,000 dead pups by the freezery agents last fall on the Pribylov Islands on the accessible parts of the rookeries. A careful estimate based on this count makes the total number about 20,000. These pups died of starvation, their mothers having been killed at men.

"It is apparent that the extinction of the herd is a nestion of a very short time, unless more effective

regulations are adopted to prevent the slaughter." Can effective regulations be devised and enforced? That is simply another way of asking whether England can and will restrain the rapacity of the Canadian butchers and free shooters who slaughter the gravid females of our seal herd when they are at sea away from home, and inflict death on the motherless pups at the rookeries.

Unless England can restrain the greed of the Canadian poachers we might as well, in mercy, kill off the entire herd at the islands. Our own efforts, previous to the Paris tribunal to prevent this wanton, mercenary butchery by pelagic hunters were unsuccessful and costly. The Canadians are at Washington now with their chains for damages under the Paris award. The best liv ing authority on the fur seal question, Mr. HENRY W. ELLIOTT of the Smithsonian Institution, predicts that the minimum cost of settlement to the public Treasury will be as follows, providing the Canadian claimauts induce Congress to send the cases to a joint commission :

Amount awarded for damages 000,000 Amount for witnesses, milenge, clerks, &c. 150,000 Total.... .81,050,000

That is about what the United States will have paid for its attempt, in the interest of the whole civilized world, to stop the inhuman butchery of the fur seal at sea.

It Might Have Been Worse.

The overwhelming defeat of Patrison in Philadelphia is attributed by the Times of that city to "the atter imbecility of the Democratic Congress." "So profound is the conviction as to the incompetency of our present Democratic Congress." it says, "that the strong Republican city of Philadelphia closed its eyes to the necessity for municipal reform, because it felt that it could not afford to give even the semblance of a Democratic victory."

The Democratic Congress has done much mischief to the Democratic party, unquestionably; but justice requires it to be said that the chief damage was done at the suggestion and under the leadership of the Democratic Administration, and that the injury would have been far worse if Congress had been more submissive to its imbeelle and treacherous domination. The storm which the Democratic party

encountered last November was a gentle breeze, as comparet with the cyclone by which it would have been swept away if the Wilson Teriff bill, as it was concected by the Administration and as it passed the House, had become law. The destruction wrought by that tariff would have been so universal and so complete that it would have made the very name of Democrat hateful to the people; while the shame of enacting a protective tariff instead of the tariff for revenue only, which had been promised, would have covered the party with incurable disgrace. The deficiency in the revenues of the Government, which has compelled the Administration to borrow \$162,000,000 during the last year, would have been far greater under the schedules of that imbedie bill, for the WILSON tariff was not constructed with any reference to raising requisite revenue, but to sacrifice revenue for the purpose of imposing on the people an Administration pariff policy against which they had voted. It would have been rainous to internal industry, and it would have sent the customs revenue far below the low level to which the deficiency, suppiled by borrowing money, was chiefly due. The Democratic party would have been annihilated forever.

Very congruously, this Administration Tariff bill was passed by the House amid the wildest hysterical excitement. Prof. Witson, its putative author, was lifted up and carried through the aisles of the charather by his half-crazed colleagues, and ladient was let loose. It was not mercly an exhibition of "utter im-It was downright madness. Destility. Those frenzled Democrats were dancin; about the grave they had dug for the Democratic party. They were glorying in their political treachery and perfuly, and rejoicing in the rain they had wrought by their legislative incompetency. They had done the best they could to bank rupt the people and bankrupt the Government. They had been elected to enact a turily for revenue only, and they had passed a tariff for a deficiency in the incomes of the people and of the Government.

The Senate Tariff bill, miserable and con-" > makeshift as it was, did sometaling to repair the timage done by the hys-

terical House. It was not based on any consistent and respectable principle, and it violated the Democratic pledges to the people, but it saved some of the revenue which had been thrown away by the House in its subserviency to the Administration. It saved the country and the Government and the Democratic party from the wholly disastrous consequences which would have followed the enactment of the Wilson bill in Its original and utter imbeellity. The Democrats in the Senate kept their heads, however it may have been with their political consciences. Mr. CLEVE-LAND browbeat and insulted them because hey would not follow his incompetent and fat-witted leadership; but they insisted on plugging up some of the leaks through which the revenues of the people and the Government would have escaped.

The Democratic Congress, accordingly, is at least entitled to the credit of not having been so utterly imbecile as the Democratic Administration. It did badly enough, but not so badly as Mr. CLEVELAND tried to bully it into doing. Something still remains of the Democratic party.

Moreover, if Philadelphia lost the boon of 'municipal reform' because of Democratic incompetency and treachery at Washington, New York has seenred it on that very account. Philadelphia will have a chance to see how it works here, and if it admires the result of the experiment it can imitate the New York example at its next municipal election. The delay will be short, and there is a great advantage in baving what is called an object lesson. For the moment, Mayor STRONG is laid up with an attack of the gout due to his peculiar and unexampled difficulties in parcelling out the spoils under the non-partisan system; but the experiment is going on.

Mrs. Lease Solves the Problem of Civilization.

Mrs. MARY ELIZABETH LEASE, the most eminent and forcible of the Populist stateswomen of Kansas, has come up undaunted from the waters of calamicy, bearing a book in her hands. It is published, with no humorous intention, as a number in a Chicago Library of Choice Fiction. Its title is unpretentious: "The Problem of Civilization Solved." Evidently Mrs. LEASE prefers not to assume too much, and to have the triumph of proving more than she sets out to establish. On the cover, designed by an artist of the appropriate name of JUSTICE, MINERVA-THILBY stands severe, a sword, labelled "Tropical Emigration," in her hand, the belt of "Equality" around her waist. She further typifies equality by being of one size from belt to toe. She has just snapped with her trusty blade the chains of Labor, who cronches on her right. Labor's head is covered with a strawberry box with a curious curved visor. The other end of the chain is held by a Quilp-like figure in a long fur-trimmed cloak with balloon sleeves, and a rake's hat with a feather. This is the "Shylock of Competition," and the position of MINERVA-TRILBY's left forefinger shows that she is giving the old rascal what is technically known as "a good talking to." The frontisplece is a portraft of the author, a very well-looking woman, she must permit us to say. She subscribes herself "Fraternally Yours."

The main thesis of Mrs. LEASE is that "Europe and America are on the eve of a dire revolution, before which all modern civilization must go down in ruin, in blood and fire, or perish more slowly beneath the iron hoofs of Russian despotism." She asserts again and again that civilization is doomed to perish between the Goth, represented by the Russian mania for empire, and the Vandal, represented by the British commercial system. The remedy is this:

"The only hope of averting this universal rolen ror ites in inaugurating the most stupendous in gralou of races the world has ever known, and thereby relieving the congested centres of the world's popula tion of buff the rinhabitants, and providing free homes for half of mankind. This can be done by colonizing tropics in America and Africa with fifty million white families as planters on estates of 200 acres each, with three families of negroes or Orientals as

If Russia can get hold of India, she will overrun China in a year, and then with an army of 50,000,000 subdue the world. Parewell, then, Liberty!" Mrs. LEASE would have the Eastern question settled by the "nationalization of the Latin and Teutonic races, and the partition of the Old World among the four great agglomerated powers of Europe that would result therefrom, viz.: England, the Latin-Union, the German Confederation, and Russia, leaving the New World to the United States, which would become the head of the Federate Americas." Thus the Goth would be got rid of. Remains the Vandal, who in his final expression is " the Anarchist, the latest child of England's military and financial system." For him, too, as well as for the plethora of peoples, tropical emigration is to be the cure. With a noble and most innocent charity, Mrs. LEASE believes that the Anarchist can be induced to leave the great beer centres and go to work. She weaves an idyll of the reformed Anarchist emigrant :

"By transferring the moody and dangerous Comnumber, the dark plotting, sinister Amerchie; to a trop mainst, the dark photolog, may be busied in planting ital plantation, where he may be busied in planting his own viue, olive, date, or bread fruit, where he may Leated brain and flery tongue with the juices fuls own sub-acid fruits, and the dexterity learned bomb throwing be employed to clubbing the durior id mangoglious of the world's nerve centre and thus ing about a reign of individual prosperity.

Africa and Latin America could furnish Lomes of two hundred acres each to fifty million families of th overcrowded, highly intelligent, but despairing mem-bers of the Caucasian race in Europe and America."

Mrs. LEASE thinks that the fifty millions or so of Caucasian emigrants to the tropics should have their land tilled by "negroes and Orientals, not as bondsmen, serfs, or ervants, but as a cooperative tenantry." Clearly she believes that cooperation is dependent on climate, and that it will find in warmer countries a success not as yet attained by it here. She will find many, inluding all the Anarchists, to agree with her that the Caucasian has worked long enough, and should let the coolie, the ryot, and the negro, do the hard work until, at the end of fifty years, they become Christianized and civilized, and are admitted to citizenship. "At the end of that period we should erishrate the golden wedding of Justice and Prosperity." No cards. The conviction and the earnestness with which Mrs. LEASE believes in emigration to the tropics as a solution of the problem of civilization, may be judged from this passage:

"My white-handed friend, please adjust your eye-glate to a nearer focus! here the encouning tide, with the glint of fire und blood in its black and threatening waves; then join your voice to that of the pullar-thropist, the wise and humane multi-millionaire, the o inspired infusiry, and despairing poor, and let your tones mingle with the loud roas of awakened Christension, storming the gates of Heaven and reaching the ear of our analous Con with the mighty mult of its war cry On to the tropics! On to the tropics !!"

Mrs. LEASE proposes to send agents to China, Japan, and India to tell the people what a fine chance they can have on a tropical plantation. She proposes that the paid, be supplied with the means of beginand get half the profits. The negro will go to Latin America as a tenant, and so the negro problem will be done away with. If twenty or thirty millions of Caucasians go to Latin America from the United States and Canada, sixty to ninety millions of tenanta will be needed. Indians, negroes, and the mixed races will supply the need. Planters and tenants will be under the supervision of Government agents. You will not be able to get away from the kind, fatherly Government, however deep you bury yourself in the tropies. You can get rid of poverty, though. Not by emigration merely, but by this comprehensive programme:

"Let all who love mankind more than millionaires unite for the common welfare. We will introduce the initiative and referendum, nationalize our ratiroads and labor-saving machinery, issue paper money redeemable by taxation, and remonetize silver. In federated Amer'ca we will tear up our competing lines of rativesys and extend them out to the Amason, Orlinco, and the Parina, and pour down a flood of colonists to people millions of plantations from the Rio Grande to the La Platte. Aid all willing workers, convenious but the chronic beggars. We will thus repay labor for its upbuilding of the mighile a major, since the days of Rome. We will form treaties with the Orient for

tenantry and China. India and Japan will furnish scores of millions of aborers whom we will rescue from starvation and paganism by a careful, prayerful application of the divine principles of the brotherhood of man. The un-used lands of forerated America should be thrown open. Colonies in every town, hamlet, and city may then form and communicate with an American burean of colonization, where all maps with desired in-formation may be obtained, together with towns on fifty years' time when a location is effected. Thus through incentive and aid they may ruise to indeendence and honor. The pauperired laborer will case to be a competitor in the crowded morts of labor when he becomes a producer of his own necessittes."

This will certainly be much better than the present condition of things, in which, according to Mrs. LEASE, "the blood of justice crimsons the lintels of the house of poverty and want." Landlords, usurers, millionaires and monopolists, will be abolished. Five thousand millions of legal tender notes in denominations of not less than \$20 will be issued for the payment of half the purchase money for the railroad and telegraph lines. The other half will be paid for with bonds. The uncarned increment of labor from labor-saving machinery will be divided equally among the manufacturer, the operative, and the consumer. "On to the tropies!"

One of the most interesting of Mrs. LEASE's views relates to "The Crimes of Diplomacy." She says that when France wanted the services of Gen. ROBERT E. LER. he died suddenly of heart disease. The italies are hers. So "France fell prostrate under the hilden hoof of England." GAMBETTA died suddenly. Herr LAS KER "dropped dead of heart discuse." Admiral COURDET "dropped dead of heart failure." "Gen. SEOBELOFF fell dead of heart disease," "Heart disease claimed Gen. McClelland [McClellan ?] a friend and warm admirer of the French nation." "Louis of Bayaria was found dead, suicide, it was reported; but the ground about was trampled over with the hob-nailed tracks of Prussian soldiers." ALEXANDER, we are told, died by the bomb of Nihilists; and "RUDOLPH, the Crown Prince of Austria, who was outspoken in his enmity to Germany, committed suicide, it was said." CARNOT and ALEXANDER III. died conveniently for England, too. All these deaths lead Mrs. LEASE to remark:

"It is passing strange that England's enemies should thus all be removed from her pathway to India: These fatalities may only be the work of Providence, yet many a criminal has been convicted on less substantial evidence. The world, however, has begun to attach a significance to these mysterious deaths, and illions of intelligent people to-day regard them as diplomatic murders.

Mrs. LEASE would satisfy a legitimate cu riosity by expanding this chapter on "The Crimes of Diplomacy" into a book. Evidently she knows more than she tells.

England and the Mediterranean

In the current number of the Nincteenth Century a question, which of late has preoccupied naval and military officers, not only in England but in other maritime countries, is discussed in a singularly efthe Royal Engineers. The question is. should Englishmen, in the event of a war with France, or with France and Russia combined, set themselves to hold on to the Mediterranean, and to meet and beat the enemy's fleets both inside and outside that sea; or is it better, in the first instance and as a temporary strategical operation, to give up the command of the Mediterranean altogether, and shut up the enemy's fleets therein, in order to secure an overwhelming superiority of force in the British Channel, and in all the ocean waters throughout the globe? Col. ELSDALE undertakes first to refute the arguments advanced for the former course, and then to set forth what seem to him the advantages of the latter.

Those who protest against a withdrawal of the British fleet normally stationed in the Mediterranean, point out that this would involve an evacuation of Egypt, which the French would be likely forthwith to occupy. The answer is, first, that British states men have repeatedly asserted that their own occupation of Egypt is only temporary; and, secondly, should England be beaten in the war, she would lose control of the Nile Valley, whereas, if successful in the contest, she could make a restitution of it a condition of peace. A second objection is that an abandonment of the Mediterranean would leave Maita for a certain time dependent on its own resources for protection. Col. ELSDALE replies that the French would find Malta as tough a nut to crack as Gibraitar proved in the last century; for not only is it strongly fortified, but victualled and provided with all things needed to defend it for a year or more. Even should it be ultimately captured, Malta, like Egypt, would have to be restored were England's general scheme of strategy to be successful. As for Cyprus, the few British troops there stationed would be, of course, recalled, and it is suggested that the Sultan might be requested to send a Turkish Commissioner to administer it during the war.

But these are not the only grounds on which an abandonment of the Mediterranean would be resisted. By such a course, it is aid with truth, England would lose all the water-borne trade of the midland sea, or such portion of it as could not be diverted to pass through Belgium, Holland, or the Bal tic. According to Col. ELSDALE, however, this loss would be insignificant compared with England's total ocean commerce, and would be of the less consequence because it is admitted that in any case her Mediterranean trade would be paralyzed by the commanding French positions on its flanks, namely, at Toulon, Marseilles, and Biserts. As for the loss of time imposed on vessels bound for India by the necessity of rounding the Cape instead of passing through the Suez Capal, against this is set off the risks and uncertainties of the canal passage in war times, which would always render the Cape Oriental emigrants shall have their passage an abandonment of the Mediterranean the chisis and agitators, in fulfilment of antecommand of the Suez Canal would be lost | election promises.

had been diverted around the Cape, and the issue from the Red Sea had been blocked to the enemy by a strong occupation of Perim and Aden. More serious, confessedly, would be the loss of the telegraph lines to the East which pass across the Isthmus of Snez, but the injury would be minimized by the lines round the Cape and across Canada, especially after telegraphic communication had been established between New Zealand and Vancouver. Whatever the strategic system adopted, it would not be safe for England to depend upon the Suez line.

So much for the objections to the evacuat'on of the Mediterranean. Now let us see what would be the positive advantages of such a course. These are summed up by Col. ELSDALR as follows: By a withdrawal of all her war ships from the Mediterranean, except the small fraction needed to aid in the defence of Malta, and to seal up the exits at Gibraltar and Perim, England would place herself during the first period of the war in a position of overwhelming strength by sea everywhere throughout the world outside of the Mediterranean. She would safeguard her vast ocean commerce and the food supply of her population, thereby averting confusion and panic at home; and she would be able at her leisure to reduce any or all of the naval bases and colonial possessions of France outside of the midland sen. Should, finally, the outcome of this policy not suffice to bring the war to an issue satisfactory to England, that power would then be in a position to reenter the Mediterranean and beat her enemies therein.

In a word, the strategic scheme advocated by Col. ELSDALE is a proposed reculer pour micur nanter; to draw back, the better to spring forward.

Sensible Japan Wants Battle Ships.

Just as JERRY SIMPSON, the naval expert from Kansas, was announcing to the House, on the faith of Japan's experience, that armored vessels were useless and behind the age, the Navy Department received information that Japan had ordered two first-class battle ships in England.

Mr. Simpson, in his recent speech, said that "at the battle of Yalu River the unarmored cruiser of Japan was more than equal to the two great battle ships that China had in line," and that Japan knew enough not to build such unwieldy craft as the pending bill calls for:

"It shows the superiority and wisdom of the Jar sucre in selecting the swift armored cruisers and tor-pedo boats instead of spending enormous sums of oney in the construction of unwieldy battle ships Japan has no battle ships with armor to exceed nine inches. That we would call a light-armored vessel. But you propose here in this bill to construct big tiur-of-battle ships, with these enormously thick stee armor plates."

Japan has gone back on JERRY; for two days after his remarks, the Navy Department gave out the statement that she had ordered from the Thames shipbuilders two vessels, each of 12,230 tons displacement. with armor 18 inches thick at the maximum, and carrying, as part of their batteries, 12-inch guns behind 14 inches of armor. The largest battle ship we have under construction is the lows, of 11,410 tons, and next to it comes the Indiana class, of 10,288 tons, while the pending bill calls for battle ships of about 10,000 tons. The thickest armor on any of our ships is 18 inches, and the Iowa's does not exceed 14 inches. It is clear, therefore, how Japan has deceived the faith put in her not only by the Kansas statesman but by all oppo nents of battle ships.

The rising nation of the Orient shows her real sagacity in drawing from her great victory on the Yalu the lesson of the value, instead of the uselessness, of battle ships. Without them the Chinese would have been completely crushed in that engagement. They acquitted themselves much better than the other Chinese ships, both in offence and defence, and it was the fire of one of them that caused the great loss of life aboard the Japanese flagship and seriously damaged her. Again, at Wei-Hai-Wei the fective way by Lieut.-Col. H. ELSDALE of | Ting Ynen silenced one of the forts that had been captured by the Japanese and was turning its guns on her.

Japan began to construct her navy, as we did ours, with unarmored or protected cruisers. She proceeded to add torpedo boats, and both types have shown their value when ably used. Just as we advanced from cruisers to battle ships, so Japan is now doing; and another point to note is that, insteed of trusting to vessels like China's Ting Yuen and Chih Yuen, she passes at once to battle ships of about 5,000 tons more displacement than the Chinese craft.

The opponents of powerful ships of the line for our navy were prepared to set up Japan's practice against the experience and judgment of France, England, Italy, Ger many, Russia, and the United States, and to insist that it outweighed them all; but at the critical moment Japan spoils that plan by joining the nations that believe in and build big battle ships.

Let Them Unite.

In union there is strength; the two conspicuous reform officials, Goff and Damsen, who have labored at the public expense since Jan. 1, should get together. They should pool their issues. They should make an offensive and defensive alliance against impeachment or removal; they should unite in repelling the censure of the voters of the city, and they should hide themselves from the official inflictions which their greed and incapacity invite.

They have much in common. They were elected on the same day, and on the same ticket. Both made the same character of appointments and allied their interests with the same sort of individuals. We append the lists: Goff's Reformers. Damsen's Reformers.

KEARNY, APPLRUATE. SCHWAR, JEHORE. CALL. PHIEDMAN Junoser. ARERD. Since Jan. 1 GOFF and DAMSEN have both

endeavored to secure additional salary and emoluments: Goff's Method. Damsen's Method. The Grab bill, lioneis. Sheriff's Additional salary.

aurtioneer combine. Additional patronage. Bonds. Fees for Additional power. Bouds, Bonds. DAMSEN, though, lot the truth be stated frankly and squarely, has one cock's feather in his cap of goose plumage. He has retained in the Sheriff's office all the competent, courteous, diligent, and responsible Tammany men who were willing to stay. He has even added to the list by his appointment, on Feb. 18, of FRED W. GREEN, a Tammany district worker, active heretofore and now on the Tammany General Committee in the Seventeenth district. Gorr, on the other hand, seeks to deprive this county of all the worthy and trusted Democratic officials employed in the Court of General Sessions of Peace, and to substitute for them route safer and more trustworthy. That by a gang of wild-eyed and incendiary Anar-

ning life, be instructed in their new work, to England is obvious; but this would be of A fair and dispassionate comparison of the

alight importance after her Eastern trade | demerits and unfitness of Goff and DAMSEN so evenly balances the scales of division that It is difficult to give a preference to either. One in office is as bad as the other. Both should go. Before they do, however, they should get together. They should get their reform friends and followers together. They could combine, unite, consolidate, and agglute. Such a combination would be fitting to the occasion, and would serve the public convenience by enabling the sovereign but lately befooled people of New York to get rid of two official misfits and political frauds at one and the same time.

> The office of Chamberlain is a useless superfluity in the municipal administration of this city. It is expensive also. The Legislature

We do not wonder that Mayor STRONG is afflicted with gout, politely called rheumatism, The doctors say that thousands of men and women, rich and poor, old and less old, are troubled with it. This winter we have had s great deal of "rlieumatic weather," muggy and dank and windy. Even yesterday, when the sun shone over the city, there were plenty of clouds in the sky.

Mere twinges of gout may be borne without whining, but a bad case of it makes the sufferer irritable, and, if it be both acute and chronic, life is hard to bear. The doctor who can give a sure and safe cure for it is yet to be found. He would make a fortune.

When Mayor STRONG has the gout be does the right thing by going home, taking to bed, and keeping warm. One may not thus be cured, but he is likely to get some relief. There should be a good, open fire, coal or log, in the room. Bottles of hot water at the feet, and draughts of hot beverages, not alcoholic, are sometimes useful. We judge by the reports sent out from the Mayor's house that he understands these things.

While we sympathize with people who suffer from these maladies, there is comfort in the fact that they are not often fatal, the weekly reports of mortality in the city issued by the Health Department, there are tables headed "Causes of Death," and rheumatism does not figure in the list. The worst thing about the malady is that it often aggravates other aliments which may exist in the system, or renders one the more liable to the entrance of some other ailment into it. On this account there should not be any triffing with gout, not certainly when it approaches the chest, the head, or the spine. Happily for Mayor STRONG, the disease by which he has repeatedly been afflicted of late is confined to the arm.

We do not know of any part of the world where one can secure safety from gout. People who have it are sometimes advised to go to southern France, or southern California, or the southern part of Alabama, or some part of Switzerland, or some part of Florida; but we know people who have tried Nice, and Los Angeles, and Mobile Bay, and Cadar Keys, and Lausanne without benefit. We believe the gout or rheumatism is almost unknown in Montenegro, near the Adriatic; but we could not advise any sufferer from ir to go there until the comforts of life are more attainable.

The pleasant thought for gouty subjects at this season of the year is that summer will soon be here, and that then the malady will be vastly less prevalent than it has been for the past three

We wish speedy relief to Mayor STRONG.

We have lately published some very lively political letters from the pen of Mr. Thunton WEED BARNES, and we desire to say that his costility to cant and hypocrisy in politics is something to do credit to any American citizen. Yet we cannot add that we entirely agree with his view of Col. STRONG's administration of our city Government. Col. STRONG seems to us an interesting phenomenon. He has obstinacy and the self-confidence which belong to a successful Ohlo man of business; and, while we sincerely wish that he would leave off swearing, and abandon the chewing of tobacco, we shall still look with interest for the sequel of his career. We would rather have a successful Mayor who hews tobacco and occasionally gives way to profanity, than a hypocritical and canting Mayor who keeps his office in a muddle, and finally goes out of business in political disgrace.

An active horseshoer in this city, John P. PURCELL, again calls up the FINN bill to Hoense raeshoers, and says in a letter to THE SUN that he is strongly in favor of it. But his entire argument for it is in behalf of the horse owners. Mr. PURCELL says that horse owners want the bill, and if they don't want it they ought to want it, as it is for their benefit. He sovereignty by asking her to erect a lighthouse says that much injury comes to owners through horseshoers who have been discharged by their employers, and have set up in business for themselves. This particular horseshoer argues that. f veterinary surgeons have to be licensed, so also should horseshoers

We are authorized by the facts to assert against Mr. PURCELL that the horse owners have no desire for this bill, and that if they had such a desire all impartial citizens would be called upon to oppose it, unless it should be ness maker, whiselwright, carpenter, cobbler otblack, butcher, baker, candlestick maker, and laborer in every describable trade and oc upation. The Finn bill sims deliberately at establishing a monopoly by law, and THE SUN is ancompromisingly against it every time.

It seems to us that a great American motional poet might sell lots of copies of his book in these times. Most of our poets are too dry for the age. We have never had a master of the poetical emotions, one like SHAKESPEARE, example. It is with regret that we say that our "poetess of passion" falls far behind

One of the remarkable features in the de-

velopment of the American navy has been the wonderful precision shown by our naval gunners while in action. This was so marked the war of 1812, that the London Times for Oct. 22, 1813, while commenting on the Enterprise-Boxer fight, said: "But what we regret to perceive stated, and trust will be found to be much exaggerated, is that the Boxer was literally cut to pieces in sails, rigging, spars, and hull, while her antagonist, the Enterprise, was in a situation to commence a similar action immediately afterward. The fact seems to be but too clearly established, that the Americans have some superior mode of firing; and we cannot be too anxiously employed in discerning to what circumstance that superiority is owing." An even more remarkable exhibition of American naval gunnery was given eighty-two years ago to-day. It was the action fought off Demerars, between the American sloop-of-war Hornet, Maste Commandant James Lawnence, and the British shop-of-war Peacock, Capt. WILLIAM PEARS. The two vessels were remarkably well matched, the American carrying 20 guns with 279 pounds weight of shot to the broadside, while the Englishman mounted the same number of guns with 210 pounds of metal to the broadside. The Hornet had 140 men aboard and the Peacock 130. In eleven minutes from the time the Hor net fired her first gun, the Peacock was com pelled to surrender, and a few minutes later she sank to the bottom, carrying down thirteen of he own crew and three of the Hornet's, who wer endeavoring to assist the Englishmen. The Elbe sank in twenty minutes after being struck by the English steamer, but considering that the Peacock was sunk by cannon fire alone, which had lasted only cleven minutes, the performance of the Hornet's gunners may well be regarded as wonderful. It cannot be said that the Peacock was an old, worn-out vessel that was almost falling to pieces, because we have it on the authority of an English writer the she "had long been the admiration of her numerous visitors for the tasteful arrangement o her deck, and had obtained in consequence the name of the Yacht." The Americans had only one man killed and four wounded, while the English had five killed and thirty-turee wounded, not counting those drawned. Sir CHARLES NAPIER, who was in Bermuda at the time of the action, in a private letter said: "Two packets are quitgdue, and we four that they have been taken, for the Yankees swarm here, and when

frigate goes out to drive them off by force they take her! Yankees fight well, and are gentle men in their mode of warfare. DECATUR refused CARDEN's sword, saying: 'Sir, you have used it so well I should be ashamed to take it from rou. These Yankers, though so much abused, are eally fine fellows."

The late Mr. FREDERICK DOUGLASS WAS ant only the most accomplished colored man in the United States, but perhaps he was the most intellectual mulatto who ever lived. That dis-France, who is ordinarily known as the elder Duman had but a tinge of the blood of the negro race in his veins; his grandmother was a Haytian negress, but his own mother was white. The famous Africans of ancient times, whether in Egypt, Abvasinta, or Carthage, were not negroes. Among the two or three notable negroes of the West Indies, Toussaint L'OUVERTURE

was the foremost and noblest. PREDERICK DOUGLASS, the American mulatto, was a man who won his eminence by his genius, by his mental powers and his moral quality, by the devotion of his life to the advancement of freedom, by his services to the cause of the Union, and by his impressiveness as a public speaker. He was one of the great men of the abolition crimade, as faithful as OARRISON, only less eloquent than PRILLIPS, more levelheaded than GERRIT SMITH, less headstrong than John Bhown, more practical than Horace GREELEY. He was a colored man of whom all colored people mus forever be proud. His name is an honor to the human race.

Professor STARR of the anthropological department of the Chicago University took from the streets, for experiment, a fifteen-year-old pickpocket of recognized ability in his profes sion. He was known to his friends as SKINNY. The Professor's purpose was to study the effect of isolating this young criminal from his criminal surroundings, and to observe the moral influence of new environment. The boy went to live at the Professor's house; he shared his walks; he read to him; and he was intrusted with responsibilities of a minor character. He accompanied his patron to Mexico for research in the prehistoric rains. He was his constant companion. One thing to which the boy was found to be noticeably sensitive was cold. When the weather was cold he became very nervous, and the Professor could see in such times the suggestion of a hankering for his old life. In this recent cold snap the crisis came. One night while the thermometer was particularly low the boy's moral resistance broke down, and during the night, while the Professor slept, his old spirit returned in full force, and he stole silver, jewelry, and money, and fled. The boy and plunder were recovered, and the former gave every evidence of being actually penitent. He owed a destre to commit suicide. But the Professor secured his release and has taken him back into his home, and the experiment of further isolation of this young criminal, born and bred, will continue, probably with stronger hopes of his ultimate regeneration than were entertained when he was originally picked out of the streets. The indicated combination of heat and crime calls for further study.

We said the other day that the bank clerk who defrauded a bank and tried to conceal the fraud, and also the factory superintendent who stole the money of the firm by which he was employed, were fools. The very best thing that s man can do after he has perpetrated a crime is to make confession of it.

The joint resolution recommending arbitration in the boundary dispute of Great Britain and Venezuela has now passed through all its stages and can be officially communicated to the British Government. It forms a very practical comment on the memorial for a system of arbitration between England and the United States. signed recently by a large number of members of the House of Commons, and brought to Washington. Certainly that remedy ought to be as applicable to the controversy with Venezuela as to any quarre! Hacly to arise with the United States; but perhaps it makes a difference to John Bull, whose ox he is goring.

The question as to the merits of the respective claims in the Venezuelan dispute is for the pres ent subordinate to two other facts, namely, that England has thus far refused arbitration, and meanwhile occupied the territory in dispute. It is understood that in 1883 Gen. BLANCO and Lord GRANVILLE were acranging a scheme of arbitration, when a change in the British Mini try brought Lord Satishuny fato power and thorewith a resort to the law of the stronger by a seigure of Point Barima, at the mouth of the Orinoco. And yet in 1836, it is said, Great | gust Belmont's dance in her own house all to-Britain had practically admitted Venezuela's morrow evening. The Shrove Tuesday dance as there. It seems to be clear that British claims in that region have grown, since in 1851 England suggested a boundary running twenty-nine miles east of the Earima River. In more recent years we have had British incursions into the Yuranti gold district.

GENTRY'S PISTOL.

The Former Owner Makes a Statement that May Afret the Case.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-SO: On read ing Tar. Sun to-day I saw in the article referring to the gul crime of James B. Gentry, that he borrowed" the revolver with which the act was committed from me.

Let me say at the outset that Jim Gentry wa s, and under all circumstances will continue to be to me a dearly loved friend. In making the assertion that he borrowed the weapon from me Mr. Contry errs; the state of his mind at the present time is doubtiess such that he does not realize that a mistake of a word might cause me pain and annoyance. Knowing him as I do, I pain and annoyance. Knowing him as Ido, I am confident that he would be as slow to injure me as I would be to narm him. The only pixted I possess I carried in my trunk containing my private wardrobe: this trunk was forwarded yesterday from Albany with the other hotel trunks, as we play in Brooklyn next week. I camot, therefore, ascertain if the weapon be there or not until I reach New York on Sunday. Should it not be in its accustomed place, the only theory is as follows: Mr. Gentry and I rounded together on various occasions; he must have seen the pistolat some time, and, when the idea occurred to punish the man who, as the thought, was trying to rob him of his promised wife, abstracted it from my trunk on the liest favorable opportunity.

wife, abstracted it from my trunk on the first favorable opportunity.

I am making the above statement is my own defence. It my making it could in any manner injure my old friend, I would not make it. But I cannot injure him now. I knew his condition of the past few weeks so well that nothing could have induced me to put a weapon of any kind within his reach.

I trust that, in justice to me, you will kindly insert this, my statement, in your next issue, and oblige.

M. i. HEURERT.

Thou, Feb. 22. William Collier Company.

Lawyer Burt and the Hyams Cone. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: My attention has en called to an item in your tenne of the 20th Inst. headed "Nerve, but Not Nerves," wherein you stat that a complaint in a suit for \$10,000 damages was served in the Pyania case, and test I called subse

quently on President Lewis and amounted that I had withdrawn from the case, having become assented that I had withdrawn from the case, having become assented that I was based on transitional representations, much so the fact. I did not continue to any one. I did noweless withdrawn from the case, for reasons which reduced to divide to the company, and Mr. and Mrs. Transition have consent to prosecute the case. Our say year respectfully.

New York, Feb. 22. NEW YORK, Feb. 22. Proposed Legislation for Sleeping Cars. In New York, for example, a uniform rate of 80 cents for a bertle, without regard to distance, is on

for; in Pennsylvania the rate demanded is \$! for the Brat 100 miles and 50 cents for each additional 100 tales; the legislators of illinois want a rate of \$1 for twenty-four knows or less; the Housters are near to passing a bill fixing a rate of 75 cents for the first 100 parating a out paring a rate of recent for the first 100 miles, the first and 50 cents for each additional ton miles, the Kansas the purpose is to fix sheeping car rates a nothing higher than \$1.50 per night, and as low as 20 cents per day; a bill is almost certain to pass in Arkansas limiting the rate to haif a cent a mile, and he legislators of Texas are minded to fix the rate at \$1 a tight, &c.

Not Provided for on the Blauks, From the Chicago Daily Pribage.
"I wonder," said the burgiar, slipping the content

of the safe into a sack, "If I oughtn't honestly to pay an income fax on this!" Give attention to the first symptoms of a lung option, and check the dronded distance in its incipity using lar. 10. Japan's Enlectment, a said fashioned remedy for all affect has of the lungs specific. Add.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOUIETY.

The Bench Show dominated the town last week. Women as well as men were constant In their attendance, and from 3 to 5 P. M. each day the promenaders were mostly well-known society people. In the morning the ladies came with their children, in the afternoon husbands and best young men were in attendance, and at night parties gathered together who afterward adjourned to Delmonico's for supper. Mrs. Stevens's dance and the last Assembly interfered with the snow on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, although it is not unfair to say that the scanty attendance of eligible men at Mrs Stevens's was, in a measure, owing to the superior attractions of the dogs.

The interest shown by young children in the exhibition is a striking example of what the tastes and pursuits of the next generation are likely to be. Pretty mammas in tailor-made gowns, and wearing the large black hats upon which theatregoers are waging such flerce war, walked by the side of their boys and girls and gave valuable lessons in dog lore, or held up their banics to pat the big St. Bernards or to stroke the silken ears of the cocker spaniels. The amall boy of to-day is well up in sporting matters and can give the points of a horse or dos long before he can conjugate the verb "amo" in his Latin grammar. Straws show which way the wind blows, and the tendency of young America to drift toward sporting tastes and in terests was displayed at the St. Valentine's Kettiedrum last work, where girls, as well as boys, were spending their pocket money upon rabbits and guines pigs instead of toys and games, and a Shetland pony, which was given by Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt and won in a raffle by Mrs. Arthur Randolph, was by far the most attractive and most coveted object on exhibition. Interest in the bal powers has not yet sub-

sided, and conversation at luncheons and dinners unconsciously drifts back from more recent events to the perfection of its detail and the artistic effect of the arrangements and decorations. Upon one point all seem to be agreed, that it was the most beautiful ball ever given in New York, but opinions differ as to the effect of powder and paint when worn by handsome women. That they embelish some while they disfigure others is beyond a doubt, and, oddly enough, the most beautiful faces are those that they least improve. There were exceptions to this rule, however, as in the case of Mrs. Prescott Lawrence, who was absolutely regal in a black and white costume, with a profusion of dismonds glearning in her puffs and curls. Another very handsome head was that of Mrs. Van Reneselzer Kennedy, who wore scarlet poppies in her hair, which relieved its whiteness and made the powder extremely becoming. That it pays to have an artist for a husband was exemplified in the case of Mrs. Harry Cannon, whose white satin dress was garlanded with roses, and whose coiffure and "makeup" was the best in the room. Mrs. Cooper Hewitt ran her very close, however, and made a most picturesque and charming Marie Antoin-ette. Several of the young girls were indebted to Mr. Tom Cushing for putting the last touches to their eyes and complexions, Mr. Cushing having had a wide experience in fancy balls, and possessing the skill of a master in maxing lovely women still more lovely.

Among the maidens Miss Sadie Thompson of Philadelphia seemed to carry off the paim. Her costume was entirely of white, with white Mercury wings surmounting the coffure. It was a reminder of the Dresden china quadrille at Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt's ball about twelve years ago, In which all the costumes were absolutely colorless. Men as well as girls were all in white, and the two to whom it was most becoming were Miss Etta Strong, now Mrs. Daniel Fearing. and Mr. Winthrep Rutherfurd, Miss Thompson, however, wore the trying costume with good effect, and probably never looked better in her life than she did on this occasion. Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop, Jr., Miss Maud Liv-ingston, Miss Garrison, and Miss Bossy Davis of Washington were also very finished models of

de siècle beauty one hundred years ago. Dancing this week has been rather in aboy ince, the dancing class of Mrs. John T. Hall, which met for the last time on Tuesday, Mrs. Paran Stevens's cotillon on the same night, and Thursday evening's Assembly having been the only noticeable events. Fair faces and French gowns are beginning to show unmistakable signs of the end of the winter. All their freshners has departed, and even débutantes are in-

génues no longer. The season will go out in a blaze of glory, however, with the opening of the German opera at the Metropolitan Opera House, Mrs. Dinsmore's dinner of 150 at Sherry's, and Mrs. Au-Sherry's will give, as it has done for three ye the most beautiful and original winding up of the dancing season. Ash Wednesday will caure an interregnum of a few hours, and will probably be devoted to churchgoing in the morning and Abbey's Theatre at night. On Thursday, the With, Miss Callender and Miss De Forest will in at home formally for the last time, although

their Tuesday afternoon receptions are always

most enjoyable, with good amateur music. On Thursday morning Mr. Greaville Temple Snelling will give the first of a course of lectures on architecture in the Hotel de Henals-"Architecture " sounds, perhaps, a little formidable to female ears, but Mr. Snelling, who is a very pleasant speaker, makes the subject extremely interesting by following the history of architecture through all its various schools and orders from the earliest Egyptian forms down to the favorite colonial style of our own Stereopticon views of all the great buildings of the world, including pyramids, temples, tombs, and cathedrals, will be shown at the lectures. A committee of ladies have the affair in charge, at the head of which is Mrs. John C. Wilmerding, 25 Irving place, of whom tickets may be obtained, which, by the way, have been made transferable.

Mrs. Wilmerding, who is the most energetic and painstaking of women, has also very much at heart the representation of an operetta for a charitable purpose, which has been written by Mr. Edward Potter. The plans for this enter-prise, however, are still unformed, and very little is known of what its arrangements are to be. The Colonial Dames of the State of New York are also soliciting patronage for a course of lectures on colonial subjects, which cannot fail to be both instructive and entertaining. The prin-

cipal lecturer will be Mr. George Eggleston. The course of historical lectures to be given by Miss L. Baldwin Morton at the listel Walderf during Lent has a long list of subscribers, whose names are a sufficient guarantee of their interest and value. And thus it will be seen that minds as well as souls are duly to be nurtured and benefited during the Lenten season; nor does it appear that the body is to be neglected, if one may judge by the number of sewing classes to be

followed by sumptuous luncheons and the theatre ciuls with suppers attached. The marriage of Miss Anna Gould to the Count de Castellane is announced to take place on the 4th of March. The bridesmaids will be Miss Helen Gould, Miss Kitty Cameron, Miss Richardson, and another young friend of the bride's. Their gowns are to be of white cloth with heavy telmmings of Russian sable, and the hats will be made of black chiffon. The Marquise de Castellane and a younger son are expected to arrive in time for the wedding, and there can be no question at all that Miss Gould's position and social surroundings when she reaches her

new home in France will be most charming The brief opera season in Washington last week was as brilliant as ours was here. Very large sums were paid for boxes and stalls, and all the notabilities -diplomatic, official, and resident-were present on the first right. Shrove Tuesday is to be relebrated by a colonial ball at Mrs. Hearst's, when all the guests will appear in costumes of the period, and will thus be in harmony with the colonial architecture and decorations of Mrs. Hearst's managen.

The farewell birthday diener to sir Charles Rivers Wilson, who sailed on Veduraday last, was given at the British Embass, and was a unique affair. A huge birthiay cale was neesented to the venerable financier, with twentyfive candles surrounding it, the number being ntended as a compliment to his southfulness of appearance, and decorated with eight bireding scarts, which were supposed to be typical of the deepals of the eight ladies who sent it.